



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	De Francesco et al.	
Serial No.:	10/085,476	Case No.: IT0002PCA
Filed:	February 27, 2002	
For:	METHOD FOR REPRODUCING IN VITRO THE RNA-DEPENDENT RNA POLYMERASE AND TERMINAL NUCLEOTIDYL TRANSFERASE ACTIVITIES ENCODED BY HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment

Sir:

Please amend the specification by inserting an abstract on a separate page after the claims,  
as follows:

--Abstract

The present invention relates to the molecular biology and virology of the hepatitis C virus (HCV). An object of the present invention is a method to reproduce *in vitro* the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity of HCV that makes use of sequences contained in the HCV NS5B protein.--

37 C.F.R. 1.8 Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

MERCK & CO., INC.

MAILED BY

Shalee Kiser

DATE: 4-23-02

COPY OF PAPERS  
ORIGINALLY FILED

Remarks

The present amendment adds an abstract. Support for the abstract can be found in the originally filed application, for example, on page 1, line 5-6 and page 3, lines 33-36.

Please charge deposit account 13-2755 for fees due in connection with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

By Sheldon O. Heber  
Sheldon O. Heber  
Reg. No. 38,179  
Attorney for Applicants

Merck & Co., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Rahway, NJ 07065-0907  
(732) 594-1958

10/085,476  
IT0002PCA  
Page 2